



# Mystery Tokens

## Part 7

by

Ron Benice



Here is the seventh group of tokens whose historical information has eluded me. Readers of *Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist* are challenged to come up with information about the owners or businesses that issued these tokens.

### Pelican

Past Time Club: Despite saying Pelican City on it, this token is a stateless maverick. The Columbia Gazetteer shows Alaska as the only state with a Pelican City. The town was founded in 1939 and had a cannery, sawmill and hotel. The token looks a little older. There was a lumber mill community known as Pelican City outside Klamath Falls, Oregon in the 1930s, so many Oregon collectors claim this token. Nowadays there is a musical group called Pelican City.

### Petersburg

George L. Cruz: Not a maverick, but no sign of when he was in business or what business he was in.

Northern Saloon: We know what kind of business this was, but who owned it and what years did it operate?

Petersburg Bar: Again, we need an owner. A resident reported this establishment closed after statehood, but the token doesn't appear that recent.

Petersburg Pool Room: Another scarce token with no background information.

### Port Alexander

Pastime Card Room: Card rooms tend to be small businesses that operated with a low profile, often as part of another establishment. So they rarely appeared in business directories. Has anyone come across an advertisement or reference to it in a local history or biography?

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# EDITOR'S COMMENTS PRICES REALIZED

Summer is short, and so is this issue. We have been swamped at the store, so I have not had the time to incorporate some items in the military challenge coins and For the Record sections. Kurtis Hawk has sent in a bunch of stuff, but we only could find time to use a little of it this month, and time is running out for getting this out on time.

Our thanks to Ron Benice for another installment of *Mystery Tokens*. It has been disappointing that more information has not come in regarding tokens that he has listed in the past. Perhaps this month you will have some information to share about one of these issuers.

David Phillips returns with *Money to Burn*. He and the Mrs. cruised the inside passage and over to Seward, drove the Kenai Peninsula and up as far north as Talkeetna. We will have more of his articles in future issues.

Lots of Alaska gold tokens on eBay this past month. The market for these seems to be cooling as several did not receive any bids, and others are below levels we have seen in the past. There was also an interesting batch of "no Pinch" brass pieces. Every once in a while a single piece will turn up with the seller assuming it is one of the gold tokens. This seller was up front and attributed them based on Mike Locke's webpage. These brought surprisingly (to your editor) good prices!

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<b>Douglas</b> , Douglas Cigar Store, 5¢, B-9a	OB80.00NB
<b>Nome</b> , Cape Nome Pharmacy, 6½¢, B-12a	613.00
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 5¢, B-1b	58.00
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	45.44
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c, PCGS-63	127.59
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, \$1, B-1f, PCGS-58	178.51
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, \$5, B-1g, PCGS-55	150.00OB
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, \$10, B-1h, PCGS-58	150.00OB
<b>Thane</b> , Dug's Place, 6½¢, B-3a	275.00OB
<b>Treadwell</b> , T Club Cigar Store, 6½¢, B-1aI	295.00OB
<b>Valdez</b> , Buffet, B-4b	67.00
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block Buffet, \$1, B-4cI	RLOB1595.00NB
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block Buffet, \$1, B-4cII	523.99
<b>Valdez</b> , CM Day, 12½¢, B-5b	150.00OB
<b>Valdez</b> , The Fiarbanks, 12½¢, B-6b	150.00OB
<b>Valdez</b> , Nizina, \$3, B-14d	295.00OB
<b>Yes Bay</b> , AK Pacific Fisheries, \$1, B-3e	50.00OB
<b>AYPE</b> , Encased Cent, Potty shape	31.55RNM
<b>AYPE</b> , Encased Cent, Round with rosettes	26.95RNM
<b>AYPE</b> , Encased Cent, Round with clover leaf	89.88
<b>AYPE</b> , Encased Cent, Horseshoe shape	24.05RNM
<b>AYPE</b> , ¼ DWT, ICG-61	236.50
<b>AYPE</b> , ¼ DWT	OB299.00NB
<b>AYPE</b> , ¼ DWT	OB279.00NB
<b>AYPE</b> , ¼ DWT	204.49
<b>AYPE</b> , ¼ DWT	190.50
<b>AYPE</b> , ½ DWT	OB329.00NB
<b>AYPE</b> , ½ DWT	183.00
<b>AYPE</b> , ½ DWT	129.10
<b>AYPE</b> , ½ DWT, jewelry	112.50
<b>AYPE</b> , 1 DWT	247.50
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , ¼ Pinch, 1901, round	467.00
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , ¼ Pinch, 1902, octagonal	521.00
<b>Alaska Gold</b> , 2 TooWah (brass?)	127.50
<b>Alaksa Gold</b> , ¼ "no Pinch," octagonal	87.00
<b>Alaksa Gold</b> , ¼ "no Pinch," 1897, octagonal	62.05
<b>Alaksa Gold</b> , ¼ "no Pinch," 1902, octagonal	23.50
<b>Alaksa Gold</b> , ½ "no Pinch," 1900, octagonal	42.00
<b>Alaksa Gold</b> , ½ "no Pinch," 1900, octagonal	58.89
<b>Alaksa Gold</b> , 1 "no Pinch," 1897, round	46.79
<b>Tierra del Fuego</b> , Spring Hill, 50¢	RLBIN£149.99NB

OB = Opening Bid   NB = No Bid   RL = relist

RNM = Reserve Not Met   R = Reserve

BIN = Buy it now   DNS = Did Not Sell

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# Mystery Tokens, cont.

## Rampart

Baber & Lycan, Successors to the A.M. & T. Co.: I have several almost hits on this token good for 50¢ at the bar. Baber & Fleishman operated a general store in Rampart in 1904. There was the Alaska Transportation, Trading Mining & Manufacturing Co. there in 1897, and a Miners Trading Co. in 1902.

## St. Michael

Birch & Taylor: This token was pictured in ATC&PN's October 1989 issue. It says St. Michael on it but no state. There is no sign of either name in any directories. St. Michael in Minnesota has 10 times the population of the Alaska village. There are (or were) small villages with this name in Arizona, Pennsylvania and Alberta. Unless someone can find some evidence, I won't consider it Alaskan.



E.L. Bar: Similar story, but even more difficult with just initials.

## Seldovia

Pocket Club/T.L.: Here we have a pool hall and owner's initials. I was surprised that no possibilities with these initials showed up in Seldovia in the directories. It is not a maverick but we need an owner and dates of operation.



## Seward

Quality Bakery: Dies for tokens from this establishment were in the Pacific Coast Stamp Works hoard. However, no legitimately struck tokens are known. And there was no trace of this business in any of my directories.

Seattle Bar: These tokens illustrate one of my favorite topics - a city in the name of an establishment does not necessarily mean the business was in the named city. In this case, the token also says Seward, Alaska so it isn't a rare Washington state token. I showed this as 1908-1912 in the book based on the recollections of a long time Seward resident, but could not confirm the date or find an owner in any directories.

Seward Club: Despite what I said in the preceding paragraph, I believe this is from Seward, Alaska. Can anyone find proof that it was in Seward?

W.: It looks like the issuer of these tokens did not want to be identified and has succeeded. Any chance he's the same W that issued Snug Harbor 1?

To be concluded...

# MONEY TO BURN



by David Phillips

## TALKEETNA V.F.W. WOODS

When visiting the town of Talkeetna recently, and specifically the V.F.W. Post #3836, with the objective of acquiring a wooden drink token, I was made aware of an interesting "tidbit of history" re the Post's wooden drink tokens.

When the Post was first opened, the wooden drink tokens were ordered. The order came in due course, but to the consternation and disappointment of the members, the town's name was misspelled; Palkeetna rather than Talkeetna!



Rather than lose time in having to reorder, the misspelled tokens were put into service. Many of these tokens were altered by pen by writing over the "P" with a "T". The original misspelled unaltered tokens are now hard to find. (Black on wood).



Finally, approximately 5 years ago, when the original tokens were becoming scarce, a new batch of woods was ordered and received. These are the tokens in use today. (Blue on wood).

More reports from my travels will appear in future issues!

## A-67 "GOLD" BRICKS



One has to wonder where these have been hiding all these years. Dan Frederik of "Blondie's", a local esoteric antique and ephemera shop brought these in to photograph for the newsletter.

We are sure they were used in some sort of a gold display. The illustration at the top is approximate size, as they are all slightly different.

Presumably made of brass, they still maintain a decent gold color. And, no, I could not liberate any for our subscribers.

## ALASKA MINT MINTAGES

### 2006 State Medals

#### Silver

1 oz. Proof	5100
1 oz. Matte	500
1/2 oz.	430
1/4 oz.	604
1/10 oz.	620
1/20 oz.	439
2 oz.	59
1 oz. silver gold relief is included with the Proof mintage.	

#### Gold

1 oz.	99
1/2 oz.	64
1/4 oz.	??
1/10 oz.	122
1/20 oz.	80
3 oz.	16

## MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



**(EIELSON A.F.B.):** 354th AMXS, Maintenance Effectiveness Award. Black, red, yellow, blue and silver on bronze.



**(EIELSON A.F.B.):** 354th AMXS, Pacific Air Forces Inspector General Operational Readiness Inspection, Outstanding Regeneration. Red, white, blue, yellow, green and black on brass.



**(EIELSON A.F.B.):** 354th Communications Squadron, C2 for Warriors, Every Single Day. Red, white, blue, yellow and green on bronze.



## FOR THE RECORD



**SOLDOTNA:** Soldotna Elks 2706. Exalted Ruler drink tokens. Given to members and visitors to "have a drink" on the Exalted Ruler. Blue, white, yellow and brown enamel on brass, 32mm (David Phillips).



**ALASKA:** Tesoro Iron Dog (snow machine race), 2000, Wasilla-Nome-Fairbanks. One ounce silver medals, minted by the Evergreen Mint in Anchorage (now out of business). We have the 1999, and thought that it was the only year of issue.

**CORDOVA:** Rainier Grand, Dooley & Allen, Props., 25¢ in trade. Aluminum, 28.7mm. The reverse is the same die as used on Brown's Cigar Store, Grand Forks, Yukon (your editor owns this die!). Illustrated in the left column.